



COVID-19 Relief Bill (American Rescue Plan)

If I already have a policy through Healthcare.gov...

1. What is the COVID-19 Relief Bill? Is this the same as the new stimulus checks?

The new COVID-19 Relief Bill (the American Rescue Plan) contains many important elements that support people from stimulus checks to other types of cost savings. One other type of cost savings in the American Rescue Plan gives Americans increased Advanced Premium Tax Credits (APTCs) on their health insurance premiums. Tax credit amounts will be increased for people who already receive them and will be available to all income levels as well!

2. I'm already enrolled in a plan through the Marketplace, how do I take advantage of these savings?

As an On-Exchange member, you can take advantage of these savings by updating your application on the Marketplace. You simply need to click through your application and reselect your current CGHC plan. Once the application is resubmitted, the new premium amount will be generated.

3. What is the timeframe for this cost savings?

You may begin to update your application April 1st, with the earliest premium change effective May 1st. The updated tax credit will date back to January 1, 2021; however, the exchange is not refunding past premium amounts during the current special enrollment period. Instead, the tax credits from the timeframe before you make the update to your application will be reflected in your 2021 tax return. The new APTC is available through 2022.

4. When will the cost savings be reflected on member invoices?

If you recently updated your information on Healthcare.gov and will have a lower monthly out of pocket payment for your health plan, your monthly invoice will automatically be regenerated to update your monthly amount due. If you pay online, you will see this updated amount due within 24-48 hours of making the change at healthcare.gov.

If the change was made less than 5 days prior to your recurring payment pull date, the payment will process at the originally invoiced amount. Any overpayment processed due to a change in monthly amount due will result as a credit on your account and applied to future months payment.

5. Will my premium tax credits be automatically updated on Healthcare.gov?

If you currently have an on-exchange policy but choose not to take action, you will get this money back in your 2021 tax return (due in April 2022).

6. I want to switch from a Bronze plan to a Silver plan (or a Silver plan to a Gold plan) due to the new savings. Will my deductible and out-of-pocket expenses that I've already spent carry over?

Yes. If you wish to switch to a new CGHC plan (across any metal level) during the current Special Enrollment Period, your deductible and out-of-pocket expenses will be credited to your new policy. However, members have paid towards their coverage based on their plan at the time. Members cannot get a new plan retroactively and will not be refunded for deductible costs from their original plan. CGHC cannot give accumulator credits to new members from another health plan.

7. I currently pay less than a dollar in premium. Do I need to make a change?

If you are already paying very low premiums, a plan with lower deductibles and/or out-of-pockets costs may be more affordable, reducing your costs before benefits kick in.

COVID-19 Relief Bill (American Rescue Plan) FAQ 2



If I do NOT have an application on Healthcare.gov...

1. What is the COVID-19 Relief Bill? Is this the same as the new stimulus checks?

The new COVID-19 Relief Bill (the American Rescue Plan) contains many important elements that support people from stimulus checks to other types of cost savings. One other type of cost savings in the American Rescue Plan gives Americans increased Advanced Premium Tax Credits (APTCs) on their health insurance premiums. Tax credit amounts will be increased for people who already receive them and will be available to all income levels as well.

2. I do not currently have a plan on the Marketplace, how do I take advantage of these savings?

As an Off-Exchange member, you can take advantage of these savings by determining if your income is now eligible for a tax credit. If it is, you will need to complete a new application with the Federal Marketplace (Healthcare.gov). Once the application is created, a plan needs to be selected, and once submitted, the new premium will go into effect. Once the new policy is in effect and paid for, you will need to terminate your old off-exchange policy.

3. What is the timeframe for this cost savings?

You may begin to update your application April 1st, with the earliest premium change effective May 1st. As an Off-Exchange member, you will be eligible for the cost savings from the time your new policy through the Federal Marketplace begins and is available through 2022.

4. When will the cost savings be reflected on my invoice?

Since our billing is calculated during the first week of each month for the following month, it is likely that cost savings will not be reflected until the following month's invoice. For example, if you update your application on April 10th, invoices will already have been generated. Therefore, the change in premium will be reflected on the invoice you received in early May (for June coverage). You will also be made whole at that time, balancing and refunding any change that would have been effective for your May coverage.

5. Will my premium tax credits be automatically updated on Healthcare.gov?

If you currently have an off-exchange policy but choose not to take action, you will not qualify for any money back from the tax credits you are eligible for.

6. I want to switch to an On-Exchange plan due to the new savings. Will my deductible and out-of-pocket expenses that I've already spent carry over?

Yes. If you wish to switch to a new CGHC plan (across any metal level) during the current Special Enrollment Period, your deductible and out-of-pocket expenses will be credited to your new policy. However, members have paid towards their coverage based on their plan at the time. Members cannot get a new plan retroactively and will not be refunded for deductible costs from their original plan. CGHC cannot give accumulator credits to new members from another health plan.

7. If I don't make any changes, will I still get this money back eventually?

If you are now eligible for a tax credit but choose not to create a policy on the Federal Marketplace, you will not ever get this money back. However, if you create a new on-exchange policy with a tax credit during the Special Enrollment Period, the decreased premium amount will begin as early as May 1st.

8. If I am on an off-exchange plan and switched to an on-exchange plan with a tax credit on April 1, 2021, is the tax credit retroactive back to January 1?

No. If you were on an off-exchange plan for the beginning of the plan year, you are not eligible for retroactive tax credits. The tax credit will begin when the new on-exchange policy begins. Only on-exchange members could get the tax credit amount retroactive to January 1.